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Iowa Great Places Sets Forum Dates

By now, we hope you've heard about Iowa Great Places. It's an exciting initiative announced by Governor Vilsack earlier this year. Iowa Great Places is designed to bring together the resources of state government to encourage bold thought and innovation and build capacity in communities, regions, neighborhoods or districts. The focus of Iowa Great Places is to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities that make these areas special places to live, work, and visit. Under the initiative, places will identify their strengths and their vision for the future in terms of seven dimensions: a unique sense of place; engaging experiences; rich social fabric; vital economy; pleasing environment; strong foundation and creative culture. Through a coaching and negotiating process, multiple state agencies will respond by collaboratively focusing their resources on helping to achieve a place's vision. Iowa Great Places will begin

with three pilot sites to be selected by October 2005.

We invite you to come to a regional forum to learn more. The schedule for forums is as follows:

May 17 - Surf Ballroom, Clear Lake (4-6 p.m.)

May 18 - Spencer Community Playhouse, Spencer (4-6 p.m.)

May 19 - Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs (4:15-6:15 p.m.)

May 23 - Mississippi River Museum, Dubuque (4-6 p.m.)

May 24 - Opera House, Pella (4-6 p.m.)

May 25 - Oster Regent Theater, Cedar Falls (4-6 p.m.)

May 26 - Stanley Auditorium, Muscatine (3:30 - 5:30 p.m.)

June 1 - CSPA, Cedar Rapids (4-6 p.m.)

June 2 - Meredith Campus, Des Moines (4-6 p.m.)

June 9 - Martin Ballroom, Sioux City (4-6 p.m.)